

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 SP-02 SS-15

NSC-05 H-02 TRSE-00 /058 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6961

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR AF/W-AMBASSADOR BLACK

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA WHITMAN

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR GH US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: GHANA REQUESTS BILATERAL TALKS

REFS: (A) ACCRA 5533, 10/5/74 (B) ACCRA 6651 (11/29/74)
(C) ACCRA 1475

1. SUMMARY. GOG FORMALLY REQUESTS BILATERAL TALKS LEADING TO AGREEMENT FOR GHANAIAIN LANDING RIGHTS IN U.S. OR OTHER, UNSPECIFIED COMPENSATION; REJECTS BLOCKED SEAT SUGGESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. E/C COUNSELOR WAS HANDED AIDE MEMOIRE MARCH 26 BY BROBBEY AND MRS. AGGREY-ORLEANS, MFA WESTERN ECONOMIES AND AFRICA SECTION, AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA HAS GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE SUBMITTED BY THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DATED OCTOBER 4TH, 1974 ON BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA IS NOT QUITE CONVINCED ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES OF THE BLOCKED SPACE ARRANGEMENT AS PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN PLACE OF THE RECIPROCAL RIGHT WHICH GHANA IS CLAIMING AND, IN ANY CASE, WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE LATTER.

IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THEREFORE THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA PROPOSES THE HOLDING OF ANOTHER GHANA-US AIR TALKS TO SETTLE THE ISSUE OF THE GRANTING BY THE U.S. TO GHANA OF RECIPROCAL LANDING RIGHTS OR SUITABLE COMPENSATING ARRANGEMENTS. THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA, THEREFORE, INVITES THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON A SUITABLE TIME AND PLACE FOR GHANA-US AIR TALKS. END TEXT.

3. IN VERBAL PRESENTATION BROBBEY STRENGTHENED STATEMENT ABOUT BLOCKED SEATING ARRANGEMENT, STATING TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAD EXAMINED IT CAREFULLY AND FOUND IT LACKING IN ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO GHANA.

4. COUNSELOR PROBED FOR WHAT GOG HAD IN MIND AS "SUITABLE COMPENSATING ARRANGEMENTS," BUT WAS TOLD ONLY THAT THIS WOULD BE A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN THE PROPOSED TALKS. COMMENT: WHILE NOT EVEN A HINT FORTHCOMING, GOG MAY HAVE IN MIND SOME SORT OF ARRANGEMENT AS GHANA AIRWAYS HAS WITH LUFTHANSA (LATTER PAYS A FIXED AMOUNT PER OUTGOING PASSENGER), KLM (DITTO, AS WELL AS FOR FREIGHT AND MAIL -- AND KLM ALSO FLIES SPECIALLY TO ACCRA ONLY TO BUY IN-FLIGHT MEALS FOR LAGOS-ORIGINATING FLIGHTS), AND SWISSAIR (FLAT FEE FROM SWISSAIR TO GHANA AIRWAYS MONTHLY). OR, IT MIGHT WANT END TO ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY PANAM REPRESENTS ITSELF AT AIRPORT INSTEAD OF BEING REPRESENTED BY GHANA AIRWAYS, AS OTHER FOREIGN CARRIERS ARE. PERHAPS IT WANTS TO TAKE AWAY TICKET SELLING RIGHTS FROM PANAM, KEEPING ALL SUCH COMMISSIONS FOR ITSELF. MOST OF THE POSSIBILITIES THAT COME TO OUR MIND INVOLVE SOME SORT OF CASH BENEFIT TO GHANA; MOST, IF NOT ALL, ARE OF COURSE NOT ONLY UNDESIRABLE FROM USG AND PANAM POINTS OF VIEW BUT ALSO PROBABLY ILLEGAL FOR U.S. IRMS. END COMMENT.

5. AID MEMOIRE IS FIRST OFFICIAL
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OCT 4, 19 4 ?(REFTEL A). COUNSELOR MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE; PROMISED TO TRANSMIT PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON AND TO INFORM MFA AS SOON AS REACTION RECEIVED. BROBBEY INDICATED BALL FIRMLY BACK IN OUR COURT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCT EMBASSY AS TO WHAT RESPONSE TO MAKE TO REQUEST FOR TALKS, KEEPING IN MIND RECOMMENDATIONS REFTEL C.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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